

Application No. 10/025,249
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 4, further comprising:

an interface to be connected communicably to a computer installed at a seller of the expendable; and

5 wherein an order for the expendable is automatically placed with the computer installed at the seller of the expendable, when the detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring.

3. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 4, further comprising:

a display section which displays a message when the detecting section makes the subsequent detection that the lifetime is expiring.

4. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a detecting section which detects that a lifetime of an expendable used to form images is expiring, based on only one parameter;

Application No. 10/025,249
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

a counting section which counts a used amount of the expendable, from a time when the detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring; and

a control section which disregards a subsequent detection by the detecting section that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring until the counted used amount of the expendable reaches a prescribed value;

wherein the expendable comprises a drum incorporated in a process unit.

5. (Original) An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the used amount is a number of sheets printed by using the drum.

Claims 6-8 (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim ~~8~~ 11, further comprising:
automatically placing an order for the expendable with a computer installed at a seller of the expendable, when it is detected that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim ~~8~~ 11, further comprising:

Application No. 10/025,249
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

displaying a message when the the subsequent detection that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring occurs.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, ~~according to claim 8, comprising:~~

detecting that a lifetime of an expendable used to form images is expiring, based on only one parameter;

5 counting a used amount of the expendable, from a time when the detecting section detects that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring; and

disregarding a subsequent detection that the lifetime of the expendable is expiring, until the counted used amount of the
10 expendable reaches a prescribed value;

wherein the expendable comprises a drum incorporated in a process unit.

12. (Original) A method of operating an image forming apparatus, according to claim 11, wherein the used amount is a number of sheets printed by using the drum.

Claims 13 and 14 (Canceled).